## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus adapted for processing a plurality of contents provided by a contents distribution service having a channel for distributing the plurality of contents including a first content and a second content distributed after the first content, the information processing apparatus comprising:

main license acquisition means for acquiring a main license having a main condition applied in common for the plurality of contents, the main license further including main license key information and a main license electronic signature;

sublicense acquisition means for acquiring, along with the plurality of contents, a plurality of sublicenses that correspond to the plurality of contents and are provided in a manner different from the main license, the plurality of sublicenses including subconditions for the plurality of available contents, identification information of the main license, sublicense key information, and sublicense electronic signatures, the plurality of sublicenses including a first sublicense corresponding to the first content and a second sublicense corresponding to the second content; and

control means for controlling reproduction of the plurality of contents when the main condition of the main license and the subconditions of the plurality of sublicenses are satisfied,

wherein when the plurality of contents are distributed via the channel successively in terms of time, the sublicense acquisition means acquires, ~~along with a first content and before acquiring a second content, a~~ the first sublicense corresponding to the first content and [[a]] the second sublicense corresponding to the second content ~~distributed subsequent to the first content~~ before the first content is acquired, and the control means determines, while the first content is being acquired, whether the main condition prescribed by the main license and the subcondition prescribed by the second sublicense are satisfied, and ~~controls reproduction of the second content so that the second content is reproduced subsequent to~~ reproduces the second content after reproducing the first content when the main condition prescribed by the main license and the subcondition prescribed by the second sublicense are both satisfied; and

wherein the main condition and the subcondition include at least one of a time period in which the plurality of contents may be reproduced and a number of times the plurality of contents may be reproduced.


3. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 2,

wherein the main license acquisition means acquires the main license encrypted by a public-key corresponding to a secret-key to be prepared.

4. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 2,

wherein the sublicense key information included in the plurality of sublicenses is encrypted, and the control means decrypts, by using the main license key information, encrypted sublicense key information and uses the sublicense key information to decrypt the plurality of contents.

5. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 2, further comprising:

license management means for allowing any other information processing apparatus to permit utilization of the plurality of contents when the main condition prescribed by the main license and the subconditions prescribed by the plurality of sublicenses are both satisfied.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of processing a plurality of contents provided by a contents distribution service having a channel for distributing the plurality of contents including a first content and a second content distributed after the first content, the computer-implemented method comprising:

a main license acquisition step of acquiring a main license having a main condition applied in common for the plurality of contents, the main license further including main license key information and a main license electronic signature;

a sublicense acquisition step of acquiring, ~~along with the plurality of available contents,~~ a plurality of sublicenses that correspond to the plurality of contents and are provided in a manner different from the main license, the plurality of sublicenses including subconditions for the plurality of contents, identification information of the main license, sublicense key information, and sublicense electronic signatures, <u>the plurality of sublicenses including a first sublicense corresponding to the first content and a second sublicense corresponding to the second content</u>; and

a control step of controlling, using a processor, reproduction of the plurality of contents to a user when the main condition of the main license and the subconditions of the plurality of sublicenses are satisfied,

wherein when the plurality of contents are distributed via the channel successively in terms of time, the sublicense acquisition step acquires, ~~along with a first content and before acquiring a second content, a~~ <u>the</u> first sublicense corresponding to the first content and [[a]] <u>the</u> second sublicense corresponding to the second content ~~distributed subsequent to the first content~~ <u>before the first content is acquired</u>, and the control step <u>determines, while the first content is being acquired, whether the main condition prescribed by the main license and the subcondition prescribed by the second sublicense are satisfied, and</u> ~~controls reproduction of the second content so that the second content is reproduced subsequent to~~ <u>reproduces the second content after reproducing</u> the first content when the main condition prescribed by the main license and the subcondition prescribed by the second sublicense are both satisfied<u>; and</u>

wherein the main condition and the subcondition include at least one of a time period in which the plurality of contents may be reproduced and a number of times the plurality of contents may be reproduced.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions that are executable by a computer to perform a method for processing a plurality of contents provided by a contents distribution service having a channel for distributing the plurality of contents including a first content and a second content distributed after the first content, the method comprising:

a main license acquisition step of acquiring a main license having a main condition applied in common for the plurality of contents, the main license further including main license key information and a main license electronic signature;

a sublicense acquisition step of acquiring, along with the plurality of contents, a plurality of sublicenses that correspond to the plurality of contents and are provided in a manner different from the main license, the plurality of sublicenses including subconditions for the plurality of contents, identification information of the main license, sublicense key information, and sublicense electronic signatures, the plurality of sublicenses including a first sublicense corresponding to the first content and a second sublicense corresponding to the second content; and

a control step of controlling reproduction of the plurality of contents when the main condition of the main license and the subconditions of the plurality of sublicenses are satisfied,

wherein when the plurality of contents are distributed via the channel successively in terms of time, the sublicense acquisition step acquires, ~~along with a first content and before acquiring a second content, a~~ the first sublicense corresponding to the first content and [[a]] the second sublicense corresponding to the second content ~~distributed subsequent to the first content~~ before the first content is acquired, and the control step determines, while the first content is being acquired, whether the main condition prescribed by the main license and the subcondition prescribed by the second sublicense are satisfied, and ~~controls reproduction of the second content so that the second content is reproduced subsequent to~~ reproduces the second content after reproducing the first content when the main condition prescribed by the main license and the subcondition prescribed by the second sublicense are both satisfied; and

wherein the main condition and the subcondition include at least one of a time period in which the plurality of contents may be reproduced and a number of times the plurality of contents may be reproduced.

9. (Canceled).